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ARAB LEAGUE. 7 May—A meeting of the Arab States' Foreign Ministers opened in Cairo.

9 May—**Suez Canal.** The Political Committee of the League announced its full support for Egypt's demand for unconditional evacuation of the Canal Zone.

10 May—It was announced that League members had resolved to play their full part in the establishment of peace and security in the Middle East within the framework of the League and the U.N. Charter, and that a meeting of Arab chiefs of staff would be held shortly to bring into effect an Arab collective security pact.

The Committee also passed a resolution calling on the United Nations to enforce the 1949 Palestine partition plan, the repatriation of Arab refugees, and the payment of compensation to those not returning.

ARGENTINA. 7 May—**Foreign News Agencies.** The Chamber of Deputies passed a Bill appointing a congressional committee to investigate the activities of foreign news agencies.

8 May—The Senate approved the above Bill.

A bomb exploded in an upper middle class residential district of Buenos Aires, wounding four persons.

12 May—The Government prohibited the Associated Press and United Press agencies from receiving incoming news from abroad. The International News Service was allowed to continue receiving news only until 15 May when its contract was due to expire.

16 May—Dr Vignola, Federal Judge in charge of an investigation into terrorist activities, told the press that the police had discovered a plot to blow up Government House during a Cabinet meeting. He said the conspirators had also planned to burn down the Houses of Congress, the Ministry of Labour, the premises of the General Confederation of Labour, and the Military Club. The conspirators were said to be working in conjunction with Argentine exiles in Uruguay where the plot was said to have been hatched. One of the leaders had been arrested.

17 May—The arrest was reported of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Radical Party in Córdoba province. They had been sentenced to thirty days' and fifteen days' imprisonment respectively for 'engaging in unauthorized propaganda'.

18 May—The federal police announced the discovery of a secret organization which they alleged was engaged in helping political fugitives to escape into Uruguay. Nine persons had been arrested at Concepcion del Uruguay—a town on the frontier.

19 May—The Government lifted the measure of 12 May prohibiting American news agencies from receiving incoming news.

AUSTRALIA. 8 May—Field-Marshal Sir William Slim was sworn in as thirteenth Governor-General.

Senate Election. Polling took place for the election of thirty-two new Senators out of the total of sixty.

13 May—**Japan: Pearl Fisheries Agreement.** The Minister for

Commerce announced that Australian and Japanese representatives had reached broad agreement on the need for control and conservation of pearl fisheries in waters adjacent to Australia. Japan had agreed that Japanese pearlers in waters off northern Australia should not enter territorial waters except in emergencies. Discussions were continuing with regard to detailed methods of control.

14 May—U.S.-Australian conventions ending double income tax, etc. (*see United States*).

AUSTRIA. **17 May**—**Hungary: Danube Shipping.** It was announced that an agreement on Danube shipping had been signed by Austria and Hungary on 12 May. Shipping companies in both countries would negotiate directly on questions concerning them, after which the agreement would be submitted for ratification by the two countries.

18 May—Visit of Foreign Minister to Bonn (*see Germany*).

20 May—Statement on Austro-German talks (*see Germany*).

BECHUANALAND. **7 May**—The District Commissioner, Mr Batho, broke up a *kgotla* which had been called to designate a new chief for the Bamangwato tribe, after it had become apparent that the tribesmen were unwilling to suggest a chief in the place of Seretse Khama.

BULGARIA. **10 May**—A specially convened Holy Synod elected Metropolitan Kiril of Plovdiv as Patriarch of the Orthodox Church in Bulgaria. (The Orthodox Church in Bulgaria had for centuries been an inseparable part of the Greek Orthodox Community owing allegiance to a Patriarch abroad.)

BURMA. **8 May**—It was learned that the Government had rejected an American proposal for a conference of representatives of Burma, Siam, the Chinese Nationalist Government, and the United States to discuss arrangements for the withdrawal of Chinese Nationalist forces from Burma. The Government had refused to attend any conference attended by Chinese Nationalist representatives and had suggested instead that the U.S., Siamese, and Chinese Nationalist Governments should meet and agree on a plan which should then be submitted to Burma for consideration.

CANADA. **7 May**—**United States.** The Prime Minister, Mr St Laurent, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Pearson, left for a two-day visit to Washington. Earlier the House of Commons had passed unanimously a motion that, in view of their impending visit to Washington, further efforts should be made by the Government to effect the removal of U.S. restrictions on the importation of Canadian agricultural products.

8 May—Mr St Laurent's appeal for freer U.S. trade policy (*see United States*).

13 May—**Pakistan.** It was announced that the Government had offered to Pakistan an additional grant of \$5 m. for the purchase of

Canada (continued)

Canadian wheat in order to meet Pakistan's critical shortage of food grains.

CEYLON. 11 May—Tamil Voting Rights. The judicial committee of the Privy Council in London upheld the validity of Ceylon legislation restricting the franchise to Ceylonese citizens (and thus disenfranchising a large part of the Indian Tamil community). It held that the legislation was not intended to deprive Tamils of their rights and therefore did not infringe the provision of the Constitution which forbade legislation making persons of any community liable to special disabilities or restrictions. By an Act of 1949 Tamils could obtain citizenship by registration subject to a residential qualification.

CHINA. 10 May—The New China news agency denied the allegation recently made in New York by the Chinese Nationalist Ambassador to America, Dr Wellington Koo, that a secret agreement had been signed in November 1952 by Russia, China, and the Viet-Minh, under which the Chinese undertook to send 300,000 troops and aircraft to the Viet-Minh in Indo-China while Russia undertook to supply arms and ammunition.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE. 7 May—Committee of Ministers. The Ministers concluded a two-day session after adopting resolutions which: (1) declared that any new organizations of a European character should provide for links with the Council; (2) emphasized the importance attached by the Council to close co-operation between the Council and the European Coal and Steel Community; (3) instructed the liaison committee with the O.E.E.C. to examine the possibility of developing closer links between the two bodies; (4) provided that non-member countries of the Council might be associated with the Council and its work.

The Ministers also adopted three resolutions designed to ease refugee and over-population problems, including one approving in principle the appointment for one year of an 'eminent European personality' to study and make recommendations on those problems. The Ministers further decided in principle to enlarge the Council's headquarters at Strasbourg, and they instructed their deputies to study and suggest methods for accomplishing a programme of action for the Council.

The Saar. The signature of Council conventions was again held up by the Saar problem. (In the past France had refused to sign unless the Saar—an associate member—signed also separately; and Germany had refused to sign if the Saar signed, on the ground that its signature would have no legal validity.) A compromise solution by which members would 'adhere' to agreements instead of signing was accepted by France and Germany but was rejected by the Saar representatives.

8 May—Consultative Assembly. M. Van Zeeland, chairman of the Committee of Ministers, read to the opening session of the Consultative

Assembly a message outlining the Ministers' decisions and declaring that the task of unifying Europe must be pursued whatever uncertainties surrounded the real significance of an apparent Soviet *détente*.

12 May—The Consultative Assembly adopted by 76 votes to 7, with 18 abstentions, a resolution urging the six Governments of 'Little Europe' to take a rapid decision on the draft constitution for a political community and recommending those Governments to develop close links with other members of the Council of Europe. The seven opponents were all German Social Democrats.

13 May—The Assembly adopted by 58 votes, with 4 abstentions, a resolution calling for study of the programme for an extension of exchanges within O.E.E.C., while underlining that convertibility of currency should not be obtained at the price of currency restrictions. The resolution also expressed support for the 'Strasbourg plan'.

Another resolution adopted called for a general lowering of Customs duties and the creation of a 'low tariff club', and a third appealed to the United States to lower tariffs and to simplify Customs procedure in order to ease Europe's dollar problem.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 16 May—**Mr Oatis.** Mr Oatis, the American journalist who was sentenced in Prague in July 1951 to ten years' imprisonment on espionage charges, was released.

19 May—The U.S. authorities in Berlin handed over to Czech representatives the Czech aircraft which had landed at Frankfurt on 23 March with twenty-nine passengers, five of whom including the pilot had asked for political asylum.

DENMARK. 13 May—**Constitution.** The Lower House approved the new draft constitution abolishing the Upper House and making Princess Margrethe heir-apparent.

20 May—A second Polish pilot landed his MIG jet fighter aircraft on Bornholm island and asked for political asylum (*see also 5 March*).

EGYPT. 7 May—**Canal Zone: Anglo-Egyptian Talks.** The British Ambassador and Gen. Robertson delivered to Gen. Nagib a message from the British Government.

9 May et seq. Arab League decision on Canal Zone, etc (*see Arab League*).

10 May—Gen. Nagib referred in a speech in Cairo to the suspension of the Anglo-Egyptian talks and said: 'We have washed our hands of Anglo-Egyptian negotiations . . . We think it shameful for a patriot to bargain over his rights. We said evacuation must not be conditional or postponed. . . Independence cannot be granted by a piece of paper. It can be achieved only by sacrifice and blood. Unless the price is paid in blood Britain will give independence of the kind we got in 1922.' Gen. Nagib ended by exhorting Egyptians to face 'the enemy' with patience and courage. They were approaching a big battle for which preparedness was vital.

11 May—**United States.** Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, and

Egypt (continued)

Mr Stassen, Mutual Security Director, arrived in Cairo. Following talks with the Foreign Minister and Gen. Nagib, Mr Dulles issued a statement saying that the defence and well-being of the Middle East were of great concern to the United States who favoured a solution of the Canal zone problem 'consistent with full Egyptian sovereignty, with a phased withdrawal of troops'—all to be arranged, however, so that the canal base 'should remain in good working order and be available for immediate use on behalf of the free world in the event of future hostilities'.

12 May—In a reply to Sir Winston Churchill's speech (*see Great Britain*) Gen. Nagib said that maintenance of British troops in the Canal Zone for the defence of the free world was nothing but a new justification for British imperialism in the Middle East. The 1936 treaty had been imposed on Egypt and had been broken by the stationing of 80,000 instead of 10,000 troops in the Canal Zone. Defence of the Middle East was only possible with the co-operation of completely independent States in the area.

13 May—Col. Nasser accused Mr Selwyn Lloyd of 'fabricating' stories of Egyptian attacks in the Canal Zone and alleged that the British had made forty-three attacks on Egyptians between 3 April and 11 May. While admitting that scattered incidents had taken place ever since the British came to Egypt, he denied that the Egyptian Army had anything to do with them.

The Revolutionary Council announced that eight Egyptians had been killed and twenty wounded in forty-three British attacks on Egyptians in the Canal Zone between 3 April and 12 May.

14 May—A British War Office statement said that on 13 May Egyptians had fired on the Kafr Abdou filtration plant and the British garrison had returned the fire. There was no truth in the Egyptian version that the British had opened fire when they heard the noise of Egyptian guns signalling the start of Ramadan holy month.

The supply to the British Army of foodstuffs, liquor, and industrial and constructional materials was banned except under permit from the Ministry of Supply. The Minister said it was not intended to cut off supplies provided by the Egyptian Government under an agreement but to stop black market activities.

British commando troops arrived at Port Said from Malta.

15 May—Egyptian list of alleged 'acts of assault' by British troops (*see Great Britain*).

British troops erected road blocks on the Cairo-Suez desert road and on the Cairo-Ismailia road.

17 May—The Ministry of National Guidance stated that British troops had attacked Abu Hammad railway station, near Tel el Kebir, and had abducted the station-master and his assistants and left armed men in key positions.

The Ministry denied reports that there was a food blockade of the British garrison in the Canal Zone and stated that the British had received normal quotas of foodstuffs and other commodities.

18 May—The Government disclosed that three protests had been delivered to Britain concerning alleged attacks on Egyptians in the Canal Zone. Two Notes complained about attacks at Abu Hammad station and at Kafr Abdu village, and the third complained of a series of forty-three attacks between 3 April and 12 May.

It was announced that Col. Nasser had been nominated Vice-President of the Revolutionary Council.

19 May—Pakistan. The Pakistan Chargé d'Affaires called on Gen. Nagib. He told the press afterwards that Mr Mohammed Ali, the Pakistan Prime Minister, fully supported Egypt's claim to territorial sovereignty.

Gen. Nagib said in a broadcast that Egypt would wage 'the battle for independence at the time we fix and not when the enemy wishes'.

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY. **11 May**—The High Authority issued a special report on the establishment of the common steel market.

EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. **13 May**—After a two-day meeting in Paris of the six Foreign Ministers of 'Little Europe' a statement was issued which said that the Ministers unanimously recognized the need to form a political community, consisting of members of the Coal and Steel Community and of the E.D.C. They had reaffirmed their support for a democratically elected Assembly.

FRANCE. **8 May—Indo-China.** The appointment was announced of Gen. Navarre as C.-in-C. in Indo-China in succession to Gen. Salan.

U.S. aid for Indo-China (*see United States*).

French pledge to Viet-Nam (*see Indo-China*).

9 May—Cambodia. Following conversations between the Prime Minister of Cambodia and the Ministry for the Associated States, an agreement was announced which provided that the King of Cambodia should be Commander-in-Chief of the Cambodian Army with responsibility for internal security and that complete jurisdictional competence should be accorded to the Cambodian Government which in return undertook to safeguard French interests. The agreement was to be submitted to the two Governments for ratification.

10 May—Indo-China. The Government announced the devaluation of the Indo-Chinese piastre from 17 to 10 French francs.

11 May—Viet Nam and Laotian protests *re* devaluation (*see Indo-China*).

12 May—Government Programme. In a statement of policy to the National Assembly, M. Mayer, Prime Minister, said that the Government intended to put a stop to the constant increase in expenditure, which would otherwise result in a budget deficit in 1954 of the order of 1,000,000 m. francs (£1,000 m.). He would ask the Assembly not only to put a ceiling on expenditure but to reduce it, and the 1954 budget should not be allowed to exceed the total of that for 1953 after the economies had taken effect.

France (continued)

These would reduce expenditure by 110,000 m. francs during the current year, and 150,000 m. francs in a full year. The measures envisaged included reform of the administration of the nationalized industries, increased railway fares, and taxes on alcohol and commercial vehicles. He said the Government were determined to carry through a policy that was 'not without risk for the Government, and demanded a courageous attitude from Parliament'. A resumption of economic activity was 'a major necessity', and the Government would shortly submit a four-year plan of public works which would attack both unemployment and its causes. He emphasized that the Government had made no cuts in the credits for capital investment.

On Indo-China M. Mayer said the rapid organization of the defence of Laos had demonstrated not only the courage of the soldiers of the expeditionary force but the progress achieved by the Associated States in national consciousness and in the organization of their own armed forces.

The Government had decided against making an 'irrevocable decision' on the question of an appeal to the United Nations, but the war in Indo-China nevertheless concerned the defence and security of the free world. The U.S. Government was recommending to Congress that \$100 m. be offered in aid to France for the manufacture of equipment for French N.A.T.O. divisions and \$460 m. further aid in recognition of the French effort in Indo-China. The U.S. Government was also considering a financial contribution to the formation of Vietnamese units and it would continue to deliver equipment to the French armed forces. France would also continue to benefit from 'offshore' orders.

In Tunisia, in spite of a violent campaign of intimidation by the neo-Destour, 59 per cent of the electorate had voted in the municipal elections; 657 of 708 seats had been filled; and 49 of 69 municipalities now had fully elected councils. These local councils would be the training ground of the élite of the Tunisian democracy, and would facilitate the evolution towards internal autonomy of the political institutions of the Regency.

The convention between France and the Saar had been initialled, and the new regime would be based on the maintenance of the monetary and Customs union with France. The preparation of European political institutions was continuing, and the Government was convinced that 'to build Europe was to work for peace'.

In regard to Russia M. Mayer said the free nations must continue their defence efforts until she gave proof by acts of a will for peace. Prospects would be very different if she showed readiness to accept simultaneous and controlled disarmament.

R.P.F. A meeting of R.P.F. deputies in the Assembly resolved by 66 votes with 3 abstentions to remain 'in close solidarity for the pursuit of the objectives for which they had been elected'. The R.P.F. senators passed a similar resolution. It was learnt that two deputies had resigned from the Rally.

13 May—Renault Strike. Full production was resumed at the Renault works.

Financial Programme. The Finance Committee of the National Assembly rejected by 20 votes to 16 the Government's request for special powers to undertake administrative reorganization and economies. After making other major changes it approved the Government's financial programme by 28 votes to 15 (Socialists and Communists). The Government's proposals were framed to reduce an estimated budget deficit of 804,000 m. francs by 240,000 m. francs. This was to be done by means of economies totalling 120,000 m. francs and by raising 120,000 m. francs in loans issued by the nationalized industries.

14 May—The Saar. Dr Adenauer, Federal German Chancellor, who had been attending the conference of six European Foreign Ministers in Paris, said that discussions with M. Mayer and M. Bidault on the Saar had brought a solution nearer. He indicated that the next step was to prepare a complete documentation on the economic problems.

15 May—The Saar. New conventions between the Saar and France were initialled in Paris by Saar and French representatives. They provided that, under a general agreement, the Saar would be accorded the right to consular representation abroad and the Saar Parliament the right to ratify international treaties. A mixed committee of six members from each country would be set up to adjudicate on differences of interpretation regarding the conventions. In the event of the committee failing to agree either side might appeal to an arbitration tribunal under an impartial chairman chosen by agreement. The 1950 convention on the Saar mines was modified to make the system a joint Franco-Saar undertaking. In regard to the Warndt mines, it was agreed to appoint a committee consisting of one Frenchman, one Saarlander, and three neutral experts to settle unreconciled differences.

18 May—Minister's Resignation. M. Montel, Minister for Air, resigned in protest against the cut of 11,000 m. francs in the air estimates.

Strikes. A strike of merchant seamen ended after lasting three weeks.

19 May—Paris Métro and bus workers went on strike for twenty-four hours.

Visit of Foreign Minister to Greece (*see Greece*).

Finance Bill. During the debate in the Assembly on the Finance Bill, M. Mayer put the question of confidence upon Article 2 under which the Government would be granted special powers to make administrative reforms and economies.

20 May—Strikes. Public utility workers staged a twenty-four hour strike which was supported by all the trade unions.

The Saar. The agreements initialled on 15 May were signed in Paris by Herr Hoffmann, Chief Minister of the Saar, and by M. Bidault, Foreign Minister. M. Bidault said the agreements confirmed the principle of the monetary and customs union of France and the Saar, and the consequent economic union, though they modified its application in the light of experience. At the same time they satisfied the Saar's desire for 'full autonomy'.

GERMANY. **7 May—West Germany.** Dr Conant, U.S. High Commissioner, referred, in a speech to the Foreign Press Association, to the persecution of the Church in the Soviet zone, to the Sovietization of agriculture and industry, and to the terror and persecution there which caused thousands to flee to the west. He declared that so far as Europe was concerned no basic change in Soviet action had occurred in the past weeks and it would be foolish to allow rumours or speculations about Soviet intentions to bring about a relaxation of vigilance in the defence of the free world.

War Criminals. Field-Marshal Von Manstein and three other war criminals were released from Werl prison, leaving ninety-nine still in custody.

9 May—East German Religious Persecution. Pastor Niemöller had an interview with the political adviser to the Soviet Control Commission, Mr Yudin.

10 May—West Germany. Herr Ollenhauer, leader of the Social Democratic opposition, declared at a party conference that the European Defence Community was designed less to ensure the defence of western Europe than to equip the right wing of the Government coalition with military means to combat the democratic forces in Germany. He said that ratification of the treaties with the west would only impede efforts to secure four-Power negotiations, and he asserted that no Government had the right to bind a future all-German Government by treaty commitments. He also condemned what he called the 'horse dealing' over the ratification of the treaties in the *Bundestag* and *Bundesrat*.

11 May—Treaties with the West. The Social Democratic Party filed a petition with the Constitutional Court asking for a ruling on: (1) whether the Bonn and E.D.C. treaties required a two-thirds majority in order to be valid; and (2) whether the treaties as a whole had to be approved by the *Bundesrat* and not only part of them, as the Government contended.

12 May—East German Religious Persecution. According to a German News Agency report in Berlin, Frau Zaisser, East German Minister of Education, had demanded at a recent Communist youth conference the removal of all members of the *Junge Gemeinde*, the Evangelical youth movement, from high schools and universities.

13 May—Anglo-west German economic talks (*see Great Britain*).

East Germany. Herr Dahlem, head of the Socialist Unity Party's organization and staff department, was arrested in east Berlin.

14 May—Dr Adenauer on the Saar (*see France*).

Dr Adenauer's visit to United Kingdom (*see Great Britain*).

15 May—Berlin. West Berlin police made 550 arrests during Communist demonstrations against a meeting of the right-wing German Party.

East Germany. It was announced that Herr Schröder, east German Minister for Agriculture, had resigned for health reasons.

West Germany. Bonn and E.D.C. Treaties. The *Bundesrat* reversed its previous decision (*see p. 256*) and voted by 23 to 15 in

favour of a compromise which had the effect of approving the treaties. It accepted the Government's contention that of the four Bills remitted to it only the two concerned with financial and customs questions required its approval and that the other two dealing with the Bonn convention and the E.D.C. treaty did not. It approved the two former Bills by a similar vote of 23 to 15. The vote was made possible by a change of attitude on the part of Dr Maier, head of the Württemberg-Baden *Land* Government, who, claiming the right to override the opposition of the five Social Democrats in his cabinet, voted in favour of the treaties.

East Germany. An Evangelical deacon at Rostock was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for having conducted 'a shameful campaign of hatred against the Republic'.

18 May—Austria. Dr Gruber, Austrian Foreign Minister, arrived in Bonn on an official visit to west Germany.

19 May—Release of American Soldiers. The Soviet authorities released two American soldiers who had been detained since November 1952.

20 May—Austria. A statement issued on the conclusion of talks between Dr Adenauer and Dr Gruber emphasized the wide range of matters discussed and said that the talks were inspired by the conviction that relations between the two countries were based on mutual respect and friendship. The Austrian Government would therefore make further efforts to obtain allied consent to the establishment in Austria of a diplomatic mission of the Federal Republic, and in the meantime a trade mission would be set up. The growth of mutual trade was noted with satisfaction and steps to extend it were reviewed.

East Germany. The Supreme Court of the Soviet zone rejected the libel action brought by the consistorium of the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg against *Junge Welt*, the Communist youth newspaper, for attacks against the *Junge Gemeinde* (see p. 257). The prosecutor based his decision on the fact that the *Junge Gemeinde* was not registered with the State Secretary for the Interior 'as all organizations should be'.

GOLD COAST. **9 May**—A European police officer and an African constable were shot dead at Elmina by rioters who had gathered to protest against a local tax. In subsequent rioting four more policemen were injured and eighteen rioters were killed.

13 May—Dr Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister, condemned the rioting at Elmina in strong terms in a broadcast.

Thirty-six Africans received prison sentences of from three to twelve months for their part in the rioting.

GREAT BRITAIN. **7 May—N.A.T.O.** The Stationery Office published a report of the North Atlantic Council meeting held in Paris from 23 to 25 April. (Cmd. 8838, 4d. net).

U.S. Trade Policy. Mr Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the Commons that he had informed American Ministers of the Govern-

Great Britain (continued)

ment's disappointment at the progress in their general trade and payments policy, but he dismissed the idea that the Government should abandon their objectives of widening trade and increasing their ties with the American continent and economy.

8 May—Municipal Elections. The results of the municipal elections showed that Labour had gained control in nine boroughs. The gains and losses of seats were as follows: Labour +363; Conservatives -250; Liberals -4; Independents -102; Communists -7. (Two elections had been postponed).

11 May—Foreign Office Changes. The Foreign Office announced the appointment of Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick as Permanent Under-Secretary of State in succession to Sir William Strang, and of Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar as British High Commissioner in Germany in succession to Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick.

Foreign Affairs. Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, opened a Commons debate on foreign affairs in the absence through illness of Mr Eden, the Foreign Secretary. The main points of his speech were:

Korea. The Communists' new proposal for a five-Power commission to deal with the prisoner problem 'requires patient and sympathetic examination'.

Indo-China. 'The sudden advance of elements in the Viet-Minh forces or their foraging parties towards the Siamese frontier ought not to lead us to conclude that it is a Soviet-inspired move inconsistent with the new attitude of the Soviet Government.'

Egypt. Since the beginning of April a number of minor acts of violence, causing the loss of several lives, had taken place. The discussions on the future of the Canal Zone begun on 27 April were entered into at the request of Gen. Nagib. If arrangements could be made by agreement with Egypt to safeguard the interests of the free nations in the Middle East, to preserve the international waterway of the Suez Canal, and also to maintain the strategic base, it would mean a great saving of men and money—"Naturally we do not wish to keep indefinitely 80,000 men at a cost of, it might be, over £50 m. a year"—The conditions of such an agreement, while fully respecting Egyptian sovereignty, must enable the base to be maintained in such a condition that, in the event of a third world war, it could, if needed, function effectively in good time. After careful discussions with U.S. authorities under the Truman Administration conclusions had been reached on the necessary conditions which, if accepted, would make possible a reduction of the 80,000 British forces in the Zone to a fraction of that number. The matter was reviewed after the advent to power of President Eisenhower, and in March the Government had proposed that British and U.S. delegates should discuss the question with the Egyptians. The Egyptians did not wish to meet both countries together, and the United States had deferred to their wish while holding themselves ready to join the discussions if invited to do so by Gen. Nagib. To quote the 'violent outpourings' of Gen. Nagib, the Egyptians had now 'washed their hands' of the negotiations. Nothing in the way of an ultimatum had been

presented to the Egyptians and it was more likely that Gen. Nagib's outburst 'springs from a desire to impress Mr Foster Dulles who has arrived in Cairo today.' 'If at any time the Egyptians wish to renew the discussions we are willing, and if they would renew them both with us and the United States that would be still better. In the meanwhile no action, so far as I can see, is called on from us'. But if British troops were to be the object of renewed attack by saboteurs, or by the Egyptian army which was being trained by Nazi instructors, they would have no choice but to defend themselves. Sir Winston hoped the negotiations would be resumed. In the meanwhile the Government would await developments with the composure which followed from a combination of patience with strength.

Germany. The policy of H.M. Government was to adhere faithfully, in the spirit and letter, to the agreements with western Germany.

France. If France had a two years' term of military service and the power to send conscripts abroad, Sir Winston believed she would have had much less difficulty in maintaining her position in Indo-China and could also have developed a far stronger army for home defence.

Federal Europe. Britain was not a member of E.D.C. nor did she intend to be merged in a federal European system, but she was with them both. Since the end of the war Britain had guaranteed five times, in the various N.A.T.O. and E.D.C. agreements, to help to defend France against aggressive attack. Close links had also been offered with E.D.C. forces and institutions. These should restore the balance and remove fears of German preponderance in the combined organization.

E.D.C. Sir Winston gave details of the close British association with the E.D.C. and of British commitments under N.A.T.O. He said: 'We have stationed our largest military force with the French on the Continent. We have the strongest armoured force which exists between the Elbe and the Rhine. We have very intimately associated our air force. We have placed our troops in Europe under the command of Gen. Ridgway. . . . We have not got a divisional formation in our own island. No nation has ever run such risks . . . and no nation has ever received so little recognition for it.'

Balkan Agreement. The agreement between Greece, Yugoslavia, and Turkey 'greatly strengthens the whole system of allied defence' and 'has also reactions upon the defence of the Middle East which are highly beneficial'.

Israel. It was Britain's duty to see that Israel got fair play and that successive British pledges to Israel were fulfilled. Its army was the best in the Levant, and in supplying aircraft to the Middle East Britain would not place Israel at a disadvantage. Sir Winston hoped that the problem of Arab refugees would receive considerable attention, that Israeli-Jordan disputes would be ended, and that the Arab States would make peace with Israel.

Russia. 'It would . . . be a mistake to assume that nothing can be settled with Soviet Russia unless or until everything is settled.' The settlement of two or three problems such as Korea or the Austrian treaty would be important gains. Sir Winston said he regarded some of

Great Britain (continued)

the internal manifestations in Russia and the apparent change of mood as far more important and significant than what was happening outside, and he was anxious that nothing in the presentation of foreign policy by the N.A.T.O. Powers 'should, as it were, supersede or take the emphasis out of what may be a profound movement of Russian feeling'. He believed the problem of reconciling the security of Russia with the freedom and safety of western Europe was not insoluble, and that 'the master thought which animated Locarno might well play its part between Germany and Russia in the minds of those whose prime ambition it is to consolidate the peace of Europe as the key to the peace of mankind'.

Great Power Conference. Sir Winston believed a conference on the highest level, confined to the smallest possible number of Powers and persons, should take place in privacy between the leading Powers without long delay.

He concluded his speech by saying that it would be the most fatal moment for the free nations to relax their comradeship and defence preparations.

Austrian Treaty Talks. Mr Selwyn Lloyd announced in the Commons that invitations had been sent, at the request of the British deputy, for another meeting on 27 May of the Foreign Ministers' deputies on the Austrian peace treaty.

12 May—Foreign Affairs. During the continuation of the debate, Mr Attlee, leader of the Opposition, said the general tone and approach of the Prime Minister's speech had been warmly welcomed by the Opposition. After explaining certain facts regarding the American Constitution in order to emphasize the division of power between the Administration and Congress, he expressed the view that negotiations for a final settlement in Korea should not be left exclusively in American hands and that after an armistice Communist China should be accorded a seat in the Security Council.

Mr Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of State, discussed the new Communist plan for the repatriation of prisoners in Korea (*see p. 313*) and pointed out that it differed from the Indian resolution in two important respects. First it would involve the five neutrals sending armed contingents to Korea whereas the Indian resolution gave the commission discretion in that matter, and secondly no future was clearly marked out for those who refused repatriation, whereas the Indian resolution had provided that if the political conference failed to agree in thirty days their future would be decided by the United Nations. Mr Lloyd hoped agreement would be reached on something resembling the Indian resolution. He said the British position in regard to the status of the Peking Government was quite clear. They had supported recognition of that Government not because they liked it but because it was the effective Government of China. Then came aggression in Korea and while the conflict was in progress it was out of the question to support, or to promise to support, the Peking Government's claim. The matter would have to be discussed when peace came.

In regard to Egypt Mr Lloyd said the Egyptians had insisted during the negotiations that control and direction of the base and any British equipment and installations were to be Egyptian and that any British personnel left behind were to be in Egyptian employ. The Egyptians were to have the sole right to decide, or at least a right of veto, on the use to which stores and installations could be put, and British technicians were to be replaced by Egyptians in a very short space. 'Such arrangements,' said Mr Lloyd, 'could have only one result—the base would rapidly become completely useless with its resulting effects upon the maintenance of our forces and the defence of the whole area.' Mr Lloyd revealed that since 1 April there had been about thirty attacks on British personnel or installations: a sergeant had been killed, a warrant officer and an officer's wife wounded, two British and one East African drivers had disappeared. He said there were strong grounds for believing that some of the attacks had been carried out with the direction or the connivance of the Egyptian armed forces. The incidents had not been publicized in order to provide the best possible atmosphere for the talks, but in the circumstances British soldiers had no option but to defend themselves. Mr Lloyd ended his speech with a reminder of the vital importance of Anglo-American unity.

Ambassador to Russia. The appointment of Mr W. G. Hayter to succeed Sir Alvary Gascoigne as Ambassador in Moscow was announced.

Maltese objection to Coronation arrangements (*see Malta*).

13 May—Bamangwato Reserve. Lord Swinton, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, announced in the Lords and Mr Hopkinson in the Commons, the Government's decision to transfer the functions of the native authority in the Bamangwato Reserve from the District Commissioner to Rasebolai Kgamané, the senior member of the tribe eligible for the office. The chieftainship was to remain vacant.

Kenya. Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, left for a week's visit to Kenya.

Germany. Following Anglo-West German economic discussions between Mr Butler and Mr Thorneycroft, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the President of the Board of Trade, and, on the German side, Dr Blücher, vice-Chancellor, and Dr Erhardt, Minister for Economic Affairs, a communiqué announced that 'there was general agreement as to the necessary conditions for progress towards the restoration of convertibility and the removal of trade restrictions: notably, sound internal financial policies, the pursuit of good creditor policies by creditor countries and the availability of adequate financial support. In particular, it was agreed that the stimulation of exports by artificial incentive schemes distorted the pattern of trade and impaired free competition'. Further discussions were to be held.

14 May—Mr Attlee's Speech. Senator McCarthy's attack (*see United States*).

Mr Attlee issued a statement defending his speech in the Commons and pointing out, *inter alia*, that he had made no attack on America, Americans, or the American Constitution but had merely given a

Great Britain (continued)

factual account of certain features of the Constitution, notably the division of power between Congress and the President, not always understood in Britain.

Japan. Persian Oil. It was stated that the Foreign Office had been informed in a memorandum from the Japanese Government that Japanese firms applying for foreign exchange would be required to state the country of origin of oil to be imported and that no new allocations would be granted after 1 May for importation of Persian oil.

Germany. Dr Adenauer, Federal German Chancellor, arrived on a visit to London.

15 May—Dr Adenauer had discussions with Sir Winston Churchill and Mr Selwyn Lloyd.

Egypt. The Egyptian Embassy issued a list of twenty-one alleged 'acts of assault' by British troops against the lives and property of Egyptian citizens in the Canal Zone between January and 8 April. The list included six cases of alleged murder.

Hong Kong: Trade with China. Mr Hopkinson, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, denied in a written parliamentary reply that any imports to Hong Kong of rubber, explosives, chemicals, fuel oil, or machinery were being re-exported to China. He said no strategic goods were licensed for export from Hong Kong to China in 1952 except for a few insignificant items specially authorized for non-strategic uses.

18 May—Malaya. Gen. Templer, High Commissioner in Malaya, who was on a visit to London, told the press that so far as the shooting war was concerned the security forces had 'got the Communists down', but they were not yet finished and remained a dangerous potential. During the first four months of 1953 the security forces lost 22 killed and 24 wounded: Communist losses were 261 killed, 110 wounded, and 135 surrendered. The monthly average of major incidents fell from 194 in 1951 and 117 in 1952 to an average of 18 in the first quarter of 1953. The hard core of the terrorists with a semi-regular armed force were withdrawing into the jungle. The rest were split up into small groups and had the primary task of providing protection for party members who were in contact with the civilian population for supplies and subversion. A real danger was the subversion and infiltration of bodies like trade unions, political associations, and youth movements. Gen. Templer announced that a new 'Special Operational Volunteer Force' was to be raised from terrorists who surrendered otherwise than on the battlefield. It would operate under the command of the security forces.

20 May—Malta. Sir Winston Churchill told the Commons he hoped the Prime Minister of Malta and Mrs Borg Olivier would be present at the Coronation and said he had sent a message to the Prime Minister making certain suggestions 'designed to accord him all dignity and respect as the representative of the George Cross Island'.

Bamangwato Tribe. The Commonwealth Relations Office issued a statement on the *kgotla* held in Serowe from 4–7 May. It said that while no unanimity was reached a record of the proceedings showed

considerable support for Rasebolai Kgamané: fourteen speakers had favoured his designation as Chief; twelve had opposed any designation except Seretse's; two had supported Oratile (Seretse's half-sister); one had supported Apele, a senior member of the royal house; and three had urged the Government to decide. Of the senior councillors who had spoken, a pronounced majority, including five royal headmen, had spoken in favour of Rasebolai.

Iceland. Mr Selwyn Lloyd told the Commons that the Icelandic Government had rejected, except on conditions, the British proposal to submit to the International Court the clear issue in the fishery dispute of the baseline across Faxa Bay. It had been made clear that the Government were unable to offer any further suggestions but would at any time consider constructive proposals from the Icelandic Government.

GREECE. 9 May—**Lake Copais Estate.** Notes were exchanged between Mr Kanelopoulos, Defence Minister, and the British Ambassador, setting out the terms for the purchase of the Lake Copais Estate by the Greek Government. A joint statement said the Government had agreed to pay the Lake Copais Company £1,800,000 for the Company's property in Greece, excluding liquid assets. The sum would be largely compensated by the unchallenged part of the British war-time debt to Greece for diverted cargoes, amounting to £1,423,813. The Government would permit the transfer to London of the company's liquid assets up to a total of £1 m. in four annual instalments beginning on 31 January 1954.

19 May—**France.** Following five-day talks between Mr Stefanopoulos, Foreign Minister, and M. Bidault, French Foreign Minister, a statement was issued which said that they had agreed that any authentic occasion should be seized upon to diminish international tension and that N.A.T.O. defence efforts must continue in order to strengthen security.

HUNGARY. 17 May—Austro-Hungarian agreement on Danube shipping (*see Austria*).

General Election. Polling took place for a general election.

ICELAND. 17 May—Ending of U.S. economic aid (*see United States*).

20 May—British statement on fishery dispute (*see Great Britain*).

INDIA. 11 May—Arrest of Dr Mukherjee in Jammu (*see Kashmir*).

15 May—Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, expressed support for Sir Winston Churchill's proposal for a high-level conference of Great Powers.

20 May—**United States.** Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr Stassen, Director of Mutual Security, arrived in Delhi for discussions.

A police officer and twelve other persons were injured in Bombay when the police made a *lathi* charge against Communists who were demonstrating against Mr Dulles's visit.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARIES

INDO-CHINA. **8 May**—Appointment of Gen. Navarre (*see France*).

An exchange of letters was published between M. Nguyen Van Tam, Viet-Namese Prime Minister, and M. Letourneau, French Minister for the Associated States, who was visiting Indo-China. M. Nguyen Van Tam stated that his Government would continue its policy of agreement and frank co-operation with France, but he underlined that it was of the utmost importance that French and Viet-Namese policy should continue to be closely co-ordinated especially if the Communist 'peace offensive' should one day be extended to south-east Asia. M. Letourneau in his reply gave an assurance that no decision generally affecting the future of Indo-China would be taken without the formal agreement of the Viet-Namese Government, and he recalled that under the treaties signed between France and the Associated States no international decision, such as reference of the question of aggression in Laos to the United Nations, could be taken without a prior meeting of the High Council of the French Union.

9 May—Franco-Cambodian agreement (*see France*).

10 May—Devaluation. The French Government announced the devaluation of the Indo-Chinese piastre from 17 to 10 French francs.

The French news agency reported that a 'free Laotian Government' had been set up in Sam Neua under the Communist leader, Souphanouvong, and that political commissars had been installed in villages under its control.

King Sisavong Vong of Laos left Luang Prabang for Vientane on his way to France.

Chinese denial of Nationalist allegation (*see China*).

11 May—The Prime Minister, M. Nguyen Van Tam, issued a statement declaring the devaluation of the piastre to be a violation of the agreement concluded between France and the Associated States on 8 March 1949 which contained a provision that parity between the piastre and the franc should be changed only after consultation with the Associated States. M. Van Tam also said that the devaluation was likely to stir up discontent and social agitation. He complained that he had only been informed of the French decision late on 9 May.

The Government of Laos also protested that it had not been properly informed.

Franco-Laotian patrols in the Plain of Jarres clashed with forces of the Viet-Minh 304th Division. Viet-Minh forces other than the 304th Division were reported to be continuing to withdraw northwards.

12 May—The Viet-Namese Government announced the following measures to meet the situation created by the devaluation of the piastre: the freezing of all prices at their level on 9 May; declaration of all stocks; and compulsory opening of all industrial and commercial undertakings. A temporary ban on exports was also decreed. A communiqué enumerated further measures under consideration and expressed the hope that the Exchange Control Office would be transferred to the Viet-Namese Government.

Two Viet-Minh attacks were made in some strength on positions in the Red River delta—Yen Vi, twenty-five miles south-east of Hanoi, and

Ban Yen Nanh, eighteen miles south-east of Hanoi. Both were repulsed.

15 May—It was announced that 360 French prisoners had been released by the Viet-Minh during April.

A clash between French and Viet-Minh troops about fifteen miles north of Luang Prabang, the Laotian royal capital, was reported.

16 May—The Viet-Namese Government announced that it had officially requested the French Government to hand over the direction of the Exchange Control Board.

17 May—French and Viet-Nam troops repulsed another Viet-Minh attack on Yen Vi in the Red River delta after two days' fighting.

Viet-Minh forces overwhelmed two Franco-Viet-Namese posts thirteen miles south of Tourane, on the coast of central Viet-Nam.

18 May—A Franco-Laotian force recaptured Xieng Khouang, south-east of the Plain of Jarres, against only feeble resistance.

Viet-Minh troops overran the post of Muong Khoua, about ninety miles north of Luang Prabang.

19 May—An outpost thirty miles south of Luang Prabang was harassed by Viet Minh forces.

The Viet-Minh launched another attack on Yen-Vi.

Devaluation. M. Letourneau admitted at a conference of the three French High Commissioners over which he presided that the devaluation of the piastre had been decided under circumstances which had not permitted the contacts desirable between the Governments concerned. He said the chief reason for the measure was to enable France to pursue the war in Indo-China under less unbearable financial conditions and also to put a stop to currency trafficking.

20 May—Viet-Minh forces clashed with a French Union reconnaissance unit about twenty miles north-east of Luang Prabang.

A strong Viet-Minh attack on the post of Duc Khe, one and a half miles from Yen Vi, in the Red River delta, was repulsed. The Viet-Minh lost ninety dead.

In Laos, French Union patrols clashed with an enemy unit south-east of Xieng Khouang.

IRAQ. **17 May**—United States. Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr Stassen, Director of Mutual Security, arrived in Baghdad in the course of their tour of Middle Eastern countries.

19 May—It was disclosed that Mr Dulles had been given a Note by the Government which asked the United States to implement the U.N. resolutions on Palestine, particularly those relating to the repatriation of Arab refugees and to the payment of compensation to the refugees, and also the 1948 resolution on the partition of Palestine. In addition it asked for the lifting of restrictions on the supply of arms to Arab States, support for Arab national aspirations, and help towards a solution of the Suez Canal problem consonant with Egyptian claims. It also requested further U.S. financial technical assistance.

ISRAEL. **11 May**—Gen. Riley's report to Security Council (*see United Nations*).

Israel (continued)

13 May—United States. Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr Stassen, the Mutual Security Director, arrived in Israel in the course of their Middle Eastern tour.

Anti-Communists clashed in Tel Aviv with Communists demonstrating against Mr Dulles's visit.

ITALY. 19 May—United States. An agreement was announced between the Government and the Fiat Company on the one side and the U.S. Government and the North America Incorporated on the other, for the production in Italy under a ten-years' licence of F.86 Sabre jet fighters. The agreement provided that other Italian companies might be called to join in production.

JAPAN. 8 May—Persian Oil. The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company applied to the Tokyo District Court for an order of attachment against a cargo of Persian oil on board the Idemitsu Kosan Company's tanker, *Nissho Maru*, on the ground that the oil was stolen property.

13 May—Japanese-Australian agreement on pearl fisheries (*see Australia*).

14 May—Memorandum to Britain *re* Persian oil (*see Great Britain*).

The Japanese tanker, *Nissho Maru*, which had recently discharged a cargo of Persian oil at Kawasaki, left for Abadan with the stated object of transporting another cargo of oil.

16 May—Persian Oil. The Tokio district court rejected an application by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company for a provisional injunction to prevent the Idemitsu Kosan Company from dealing in 18,000 tons of oil unloaded from the *Nissho Maru* on 9 May. It stated that there was no provision in Japanese law to authorize such action.

19 May—The Diet designated Mr Yoshida, the Liberal Party leader, as the new Prime Minister. The voting in the Lower House was as follows: Mr Yoshida 204 votes; Mr Shigemitsu, Progressive Party leader, 116. There were 77 blank votes, mostly left-wing Socialists, and 69 abstentions, mostly right-wing Socialists. The Upper House confirmed the nomination by 141 votes in a House of 250.

JORDAN. 14 May—Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr Stassen, Director of Mutual Security, paid a visit to Jordan in the course of a tour of Middle Eastern countries.

KASHMIR. 11 May—Dr Mukherjee, leader of the Hindu opposition movement in India—Jana Sangh—was arrested on the Jammu border for entering Kashmir without an Indian Government permit. He had previously announced his intention of entering in order to study the Paja Parishad agitation in Jammu.

KENYA. 8 May—Fifteen Kikuyu Home Guards were killed and two captured in a terrorist raid on a police post. A woman and a child were also killed.

In a Mau-Mau attack on the Othaya police camp in the Nyeri reserve at least sixteen terrorists were killed and four captured.

It was estimated that in operations over the preceding two days more than sixty terrorists had been killed or wounded.

9 May—Terrorists burned down a school in the Fort Hall reserve and killed a Kikuyu guard. Twenty of the gang were killed by an army patrol.

10 May—Five loyal Kikuyu were killed and three wounded in an attack on a guard camp in the south Nyeri reserve.

13 May—Seventeen Kikuyu were sentenced to death for the murder of a headman's wife during the Lari massacre.

14 May—Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, arrived in Nairobi.

The Attorney-General announced that the death penalty had been extended to persons trafficking in firearms or committing any act likely to assist the operation of terrorists or impede security forces.

19 May—In a statement to the press Mr Lyttelton said the ultimate outcome of the emergency was not in doubt but if a greater impact could be brought to bear on the enemy there was a chance of speedy results. He said there was no significant spread of the Mau-Mau movement to other tribes, the flow of confessions had become a flood, the amount of information supplied to the police had greatly increased, and the Home Guard had been substantially built up. On the other hand the number of gangs had increased owing to the return of Mau-Mau adherents from the settled areas to the reserves. He gave an assurance that there would be no departure from the principles of British justice in trying suspects.

20 May—The Government banned the Labour Trade Union of East Africa, which claimed to have a membership of 2,500.

KOREA. 7 May—Communist Proposals. The Communists submitted new repatriation proposals as follows: (1) direct repatriation of willing prisoners by both sides within two months after an armistice; (2) a neutral commission to be set up composed of representatives of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, and India; (3) each of the neutrals concerned to provide an equal number of troops to control prisoners unwilling to be repatriated who should be released into their hands at the original places of detention; (4) within four months representatives of the nations to which these prisoners belonged should have facilities to go to them and 'eliminate their apprehensions and inform them of all matters relating to their return to their homelands, particularly of their full right to return to lead a peaceful life'; (5) speedy repatriation—within four months—of prisoners who after such explanations wished to go home; (6) a political conference to consider disposition of any prisoners still in neutral custody after the four months' time-limit; (7) the prisoners' own nations to pay their travel and other expenses; and (8) these terms to be made known to all prisoners.

The Communists reserved the right, if these proposals were not accepted, to return to their proposals of 26 April.

Korea (continued)

The Commander of the U.S. Fifth Air Force said that no MIG 15s had been seen south of the Yalu river for seven days—the longest period of the war that MIG 15s had stayed in Manchuria. He assumed that this fact had something to do with the offer of \$100,000 to any pilot landing an MIG 15 within U.N. lines.

South Korea. The South Korean Government announced that all men between twenty and twenty-six would be drafted into the army and all others between seventeen and forty into the labour service. Only primary school teachers and railway engineers would be exempt.

Communist attacks on allied positions on the western front were repulsed.

9 May—Gen. Harrison, the U.N. chief negotiator, put a number of questions to the Communists concerning their proposals. He asked, *inter alia*, how the five-power neutral commission would reach decisions, what armed forces its members would provide, and how the prison camps would be controlled.

South Korea. The South Korean Foreign Minister announced that South Korea would not accept the Communist proposal for a five-nation neutral commission. He pointed out that two of the nations were Communist and one a Communist sympathizer and said that North Korean prisoners who did not want to be repatriated should be released immediately.

10 May—Gen. Nam II stated at the truce talks that the Communists would accept the principle of a majority vote for the neutral commission.

11 May—Gen. Harrison told the Communists that there was no guarantee that a political conference could settle the prisoner question and that the Communist proposal therefore offered no alternative to repatriation or indefinite captivity. He also put up a further list of questions regarding implementation of the Communist proposals. Gen. Nam II insisted that matters of detail could be agreed at a later stage.

The New China News Agency announced that China had protested to the United States against the bombing of the north-east Chinese cities of Antung and Lakushao on 10 and 11 May. It claimed that more than 1,100 houses were destroyed in Antung. The agency also repeated germ warfare charges against the United States.

12 May—The Far East Air Force denied the allegations that U.S. aircraft had bombed two towns on the Chinese side of the Yalu River.

Gen. Clark, U.N. Supreme Commander, flew to Korea and conferred with Gen. Harrison. He also saw President Syngman Rhee of South Korea.

Fierce hand-to-hand fighting took place on the central front.

13 May—U.N. Proposals. The United Nations submitted at Panmunjom new proposals for the repatriation of prisoners according to which, after a prior exchange of complete lists of names, all prisoners wishing to be repatriated would be sent home in groups within two months; all Korean prisoners not wishing to be repatriated would be released to civilian status and the remaining Chinese prisoners not wishing to be repatriated would be handed over to the custody of the

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five-nation neutral commission consisting of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, and India which would have its headquarters at Panmunjom and subordinate bodies at places in Korea where the prisoners were held. An Indian representative would be chairman of the commission, and only India would have the right to provide troops. Both sides would be allowed to send representatives to interview compatriots in an effort to 'eliminate their apprehensions' regarding repatriation but no force or threat of force might be used against prisoners to prevent or effect repatriation, and no violence to their persons or affront to their dignity or self-respect would be allowed for any purpose whatever. Within sixty days of their transfer to the custodial commission those prisoners still not wishing to be repatriated would be released to civilian status.

U.N. aircraft made heavy attacks on a troop and supply centre near Sinanju without meeting opposition.

Another Communist attack on the central front was repulsed.

14 May—The Communists rejected the latest U.N. proposals. Gen. Nam II described the proposal to release all Korean prisoners as civilians as 'utterly absurd'.

15 May—The U.N. Command announced that two North Korean prisoners had been killed by fellow prisoners in a fight at the Kobe Island camp on 12 May.

16 May—Chinese attacks on the central front led to heavy fighting.

17 May—South Korean forces counter-attacked in the Pukhan River bend on the east-central front and threw back Chinese troops which had penetrated their positions. Another Chinese attack south-west of Kumsong was also repulsed.

Gen. Harrison flew to Tokio for consultations with Gen. Mark Clark, the Supreme Commander.

18 May—The New China News Agency said that more than 200 districts were flooded and 2,000 peasant households affected when U.S. aircraft breached a reservoir near Pyongyang on 13 and 14 May.

Allied pilots shot down twelve MIG 15s, bringing the total destroyed in six days to thirty-five.

19 May—The U.N. Command announced that the armistice talks which were due to be resumed, after an adjournment, on 20 May had been postponed until 25 May at the request of the United Nations.

South Korean troops repulsed another Chinese attack on the central front.

U.N. aircraft bombed Yangsi on the Yalu River.

A heavy bombardment of the north-eastern coast was made by U.S. naval warships and aircraft.

20 May—A Communist attack on the western sector was repulsed.

LEBANON. 16 May—Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr Stassen, Director of Mutual Security, arrived in Beirut in the course of their Middle Eastern tour.

Before their arrival Communists demonstrating against the visit clashed with the police and a few arrests were made.

MALAYA. 18 May—Gen. Templer on the emergency (*see Great Britain*).

MALTA. 12 May—The Legislative Assembly carried unanimously a resolution regretting the arrangements made by the British Government for Malta in the Coronation ceremonies. The adoption of the resolution followed a statement by the Prime Minister that he would not be attending the Coronation as he objected to the fact that his place in the Abbey would not be with the Commonwealth Prime Ministers and to the British Government's decision to fly the Maltese flag together with the Blue Ensign emblazoned with the arms of Malta.

20 May—British Statement (*see Great Britain*).

NIGERIA. 18 May—**Riots.** A state of emergency was proclaimed throughout the Northern Region when rioting continued for a third successive day in Kano. The trouble began on 16 May after the Kano native administration had withdrawn a permit issued to the Action Group to hold a meeting at Sabon Gari—a district outside the city walls containing more than 20,000 southerners. Forty-six people were killed during the riots and more than 200 injured.

19 May—Government spokesmen stated that available reports suggested that though the arrival of the Action Group was the occasion for the riots those taking part were hooligans with no apparent political affiliations.

20 May—The Governor broadcast an appeal for calm.

It was announced that ninety-nine arrests had been made in Kano where there had been considerable looting.

Mr Awolowo, leader of the Action Group, said in a speech at Port Harcourt that the Action Group eschewed violence and would use the weapon of spiritual power in its fight for freedom. If the North chose secession and the British supported them 'we shall declare our independence immediately and we will not allow the North to transport their groundnuts through our territory'. The Action Group and the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons must now collaborate against the common enemy of imperialism.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION: 12 May—Appointment of Gen. Gruenther to succeed Gen. Ridgway as Supreme Commander (*see United States*).

PAKISTAN. 13 May—Demonstrations were staged in Karachi as a protest against the death sentence passed by a martial law tribunal on Maulana Abul Ala Maududi, chief of the Jamaat-i-Islami, in connection with anti-Ahmadiya agitation in the Punjab.

The death sentences passed on Abul Ali Maududi and on Abdus Sattar Naizi were commuted to fourteen years' imprisonment by the chief administrator of martial law in Lahore.

Canadian aid for purchase of wheat (*see Canada*).

14 May—Maulana Akhtar Ali Khan, editor of the newspaper,

Pakistan (continued)

Zamindar, was sentenced by a Lahore military court to fourteen years' imprisonment for anti-Ahmadiya agitation on 5 March.

15 May—Martial law was lifted in Lahore.

17 May—It was announced that the United States would grant Pakistan a gift of 1 m. tons of wheat.

19 May—Support for Egypt (*see Egypt*).

PERSIA. 8 May—It was learned that Bishop Thompson would be allowed to remain in Persia until 8 June.

10 May—A meeting of the Majlis broke up in uproar within five minutes of its opening.

11 May—Crown Lands. The Shah issued a decree transferring to the Government all the royal estates and lands which he had inherited from his father, subject to an annual payment by the Government of 60 m. rials to the royal welfare and charity organization. The Shah expressed the view that the Government should lease the estates to peasants on an instalment basis to help towards land reforms throughout the country.

12 May—The Majlis again broke up in uproar after fights in the visitors' galleries.

14 May—The Shah's brother and heir presumptive, Prince Ali Reza, left for Europe.

Dr Baghai. Tehran Radio announced that the Government had prepared a Bill for the withdrawal of parliamentary immunity from Dr Baghai so that he could be tried on a charge of complicity in the murder of Gen. Afshartoos. The Bill would first be examined by the Majlis justice committee.

19 May—During a debate in the Majlis two Opposition speakers, Mullah Ghanatabadi and Hassan Haerizadeh, both former supporters of Dr Musaddiq, strongly criticized the Prime Minister's policy. Dr Baghai also spoke and accused the Government of torturing innocent persons in order to extract from them confessions implicating Government opponents, including himself. He said he was prepared to be tried before the relevant court in order to prove his innocence.

Dr Fatemi announced that Mr Perdue, an American journalist, had been ordered to leave Persia within three days.

POLAND. 20 May—Polish pilot's flight to Denmark (*see Denmark*).

SCANDINAVIAN POWERS' CONFERENCE. **19 May**—After a meeting in Oslo of the Foreign Ministers of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Iceland, a statement was issued which recorded the Ministers' satisfaction at the interest in the development of east-west trade shown at the recent E.C.E. conference in Geneva. They expressed the hope that an armistice might be concluded in Korea based on the Indian proposals approved by the United Nations, and they recorded their support for negotiations between the Great Powers by means, for instance, of a personal meeting at the highest level.

SOUTH AFRICA. **9 May—Liberal Party.** The formation of a South African Liberal Party was announced. Its sponsors said that it would stand for political equality of opportunity, irrespective of race, colour or creed.

10 May—Union Federal Party. The formation was announced of the Union Federal Party which pledged itself to work for a system of federal union giving a greater measure of autonomy to provincial governments and to uphold the right of any province wishing to remain under the Crown. It also stood for the recognition of all non-Europeans as members of a greater South African community and for the right of the non-European to expression in the organs of government commensurate with his degree of civilization.

12 May—United Party. Mr Strauss, United Party leader, declared that the aim adopted by the Liberals and the Federalists of equality between Europeans and non-Europeans was as impracticable as *apartheid* and that the problem could be solved only as it developed from generation to generation. The United Party stood steadfastly for European leadership while doing justice to the 'reasonable aspirations' of non-Europeans. He also condemned as 'a constitutional monstrosity' and an 'act of defeatism' the Union Federal Party's plan for a federation of a monarchy and a republic. He admitted that the United Party had suffered a setback but declared that time and logic would remain on the side of those who wished to unite the South African people. On the question of political rights, he said the party stood by the 1936 Herzog-Smuts settlement (which put the Cape natives on a separate roll and gave them separate representation) and said that any revision must have the broad agreement of Europeans and then the co-operation of non-Europeans.

14 May—Native pupils burned down the school buildings and the principal's house at a German mission school near Lichtenburg, western Transvaal, as a protest against alleged unsatisfactory conditions.

15 May—Torch Commando. The resignation was reported of four prominent members of the Commando—Mr de Wet, Gen. Brink, Mr Delarey, and Brigadier Enslin. They had expressed the view that the Commando should disappear and the United Party be strengthened.

16 May—A meeting at Pietermaritzburg of about 150 delegates representing the Torch Commando overwhelmingly expressed confidence in those Commando members who had helped, in a private capacity, to found the Federal Union Party. At the same time they indicated that the Commando would remain independently in being in Natal and they pledged their continued determination to resist the incorporation of Natal into a republic, declaring that this could not be brought about unless the consent of the people of Natal had been obtained in a referendum.

18 May—A further sixty-three resignations from the Torch Commando were announced. Those resigning deplored the formation of the Union Federal Party with which a number of prominent Torchmen were associated.

20 May—United Party. Mr Strauss told a United Party meeting

that the main principles of the Party were: national unity on a basis of broad South Africanism and of the existing constitution; co-operation with non-Europeans on a basis of European leadership; increasing the white population by encouraging larger families and immigration; the rule of law, the independence and impartiality of the courts, freedom of religion, freedom from arbitrary arrests, and freedom of trade unions; and finally membership of the Commonwealth.

SUDAN. 20 May—**Sudanization.** The Executive Council passed a provisional order, which was subject to approval by the future Parliament, giving expatriates or the Sudan Government the right to terminate an expatriate's service contract on a three-months' notice after 1 April 1955.

SYRIA. 15 May—Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr Stassen, Director of Mutual Security, arrived in Damascus in the course of their Middle Eastern tour.

TUNISIA. 12 May—M. Mayer on the municipal elections (*see France*).

17 May—It was learned that Maître Hedi Nouira, assistant secretary-general of the Néo-Destour party, and two brothers of the former Minister of Justice, M. Salah Ben Youssef (actually in Cairo), had been arrested on charges of criminal association.

TURKEY. 18 May—**Balkan Pact.** The Grand National Assembly ratified by a unanimous vote the tripartite treaty between Greece, Turkey, and Yugoslavia signed on 28 February.

UNITED NATIONS Security Council

11 May—**Israeli-Jordan Dispute.** A report to the Security Council by Gen. Riley, the retiring chief of staff of the U.N. truce supervisory organization in Palestine, was published in Jerusalem. Gen. Riley suggested that border tension could best be reduced by high level talks between Israel and Jordan, and said that Israel had already accepted the idea. Reviewing the shooting incidents of 22 and 23 April in Jerusalem, he said reports were so contradictory that it was impossible to determine who had fired the first shot, but he condemned as a most flagrant violation of the cease-fire the firing by Israel into the open space by the Damascus Gate. He added that violations had also been committed by Jordan and said the machinery of the Commission did not function properly as the Israeli and Jordan delegates tended 'to act like lawyers defending a case in court and the chairman consequently appears as a judge'.

UNITED STATES. 7 May—**Defence.** The Defence Department sent its new estimates to the House appropriations committee. The chairman of the committee said that spending during the fiscal year 1953-4 would be reduced by \$2,300 m. and requests for new appropriations by

United States (*continued*)

\$5,240 m. The request for the Navy was cut from \$11,500 m. to \$9,650 m. and that for the Air Force from \$16,800 m. to \$11,700 m. An increase of from \$12,100 m. to \$13,670 m. was requested for the Army. Spending during the current year would be \$400 m. less than Mr Truman estimated.

Canada. Mr St Laurent and Mr Pearson, the Canadian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, arrived in Washington for discussions of Canadian resolution *re* U.S. trade restrictions (*see Canada*).

8 May—Foreign Aid: Indo-China. Mr Stassen, Director of the Mutual Security Programme, announced that the United States was providing France with \$60 m. worth of special aid for Indo-China.

Canada. In a speech to the National Press Club Mr St Laurent urged the United States to give a bold lead in widening the area of competitive trade so as to help other nations towards prosperity and strength.

A joint statement issued by President Eisenhower and Mr St Laurent said that while developments in Korea were more hopeful the new act of aggression in Laos must cast doubt on Communist intentions, and that while every effort should be made to relax international tensions the free nations could not diminish their defence efforts.

Budget. Mr Humphrey, Secretary of the Treasury, told the Senate foreign relations committee that the Administration had given up hope of balancing the budget during the next fiscal year.

Foreign Policy. Speaking in New York, President Eisenhower said the United States was seeking in Korea a peace which must not be punitive, nor merely partial. U.S. foreign policy must be total, clear and consistent; it should also be firm and strong but not truculent, understood and supported at home, and understood and respected abroad.

9 May—Mr Dulles's Mission. Mr Dulles and Mr Stassen left for a three weeks' fact-finding mission to the Near East, India, and Pakistan. Before leaving Mr Dulles made it clear that he would not take part in the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations.

Indo-China. Mr Dulles said the United States would look favourably on any Siamese action to bring the invasion of Laos before the United Nations.

12 May—Command Changes. President Eisenhower announced the following changes: Gen. Ridgway to succeed Gen. Collins as Army Chief of Staff; Gen. Gruenther to succeed Gen. Ridgway as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe; Admiral Radford to succeed Gen. Bradley as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Admiral Carney to succeed Admiral Fechteler as Chief of Naval Operations.

N.A.T.O. Protocols. President Eisenhower decided to submit to a legal study group the protocols on the legal status of N.A.T.O. troops serving outside their own countries.

14 May—President Eisenhower said at his press conference that he had no objection to Sir Winston Churchill's suggestion for a high-level international conference but he would like some evidence of general

good faith before committing the American Government. In answer to a question he said he could see no such evidence as yet.

Mr Attlee's Speech. Senator McCarthy violently attacked Mr Attlee in the Senate for his speech in the British House of Commons on 12 May. He described it as one of the most insulting speeches made in a legislature of a nation receiving aid from an ally that has been pouring out her economic life-blood for practically every other nation on earth'.

Mr Attlee's statement (*see Great Britain*).

Australia. Three U.S.-Australian conventions were signed in Washington providing for the ending of double income tax, estate, and gift duties between the two countries.

15 May—Korea. The State Department issued a statement reaffirming that the U.N. Command in Korea would not surrender the principle of no forcible repatriation of prisoners.

17 May—Iceland. The Mutual Security Agency announced the ending of economic aid to Iceland at the request of the Icelandic Government. The suspension followed a final allotment of \$3,250,000. Iceland would continue to take part in the production and technical aid programme.

18 May—Spain. It was learned that the foreign aid programme included provision for additional aid for Spain.

Russian Strength. Gen. Ridgway, the retiring Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, confirmed to the House foreign affairs committee that his estimate of Russian military strength was the same as the allied estimate of 1947—175 army divisions, 20,000 front-line aircraft, and 350 submarines.

19 May—In a broadcast to the nation, President Eisenhower emphasized the necessity for continued effort to build up the strength of the free world and said he could not recommend at present any tax reductions, as a balanced budget must be achieved as soon as possible. He proposed: (1) extension of the present excess profits tax for six months after 30 June, to produce additional revenue of \$800 m.; (2) continuation at the existing rate of the income tax on business corporations, which had been due for reduction on 1 April 1954; (3) deferral of an increase in payments for the social security fund, which already had a large surplus; (4) a reduction in income taxes on 1 January 1954, in accordance with existing law; (5) postponement of a reduction in excise taxes.

Asked by the Senate foreign relations committee his opinion of Senator McCarthy's proposal of 'going it alone' and letting the British 'withdraw and be damned', Gen. Ridgway said it would be to invite inevitable national disaster. . . . It is absolutely essential to our security that we have allies'.

Voice of America. Mr Raymond Gram Swing resigned his post as chief political analyst of the Voice of America. In his letter of resignation he said that economy cuts imposed by Congress had reduced the service to impotence and that Congressional attacks on its integrity had crippled it 'perhaps beyond recovery'. He accused the State Department of 'spineless failure to stand by its own staff'.

United States (continued)

20 May—Trade with China. Mr Robert Kennedy quoted figures before Senator McCarthy's investigating sub-committee to show that British trade with China had increased in 1952, and he also asserted that, of the 162 ships which were trading with China in the first three months of 1953, 100 were British. He further alleged that ships owned by the British firm of Whealock-Marden of Hong Kong were engaged in transporting Communist troops in the Far East.

YUGOSLAVIA. 17 May—Speaking at Slavonski Brod, Marshal Tito said that Sir Winston Churchill's speech of 11 May was wholly acceptable to Yugoslavia with the one small reservation that because of her past experiences she regarded with suspicion 'talks behind closed doors between a limited number of Powers' with the aim of reaching a settlement. He was convinced, however, that what Sir Winston intended was a meeting to establish informal contacts and an exchange of views and if this were so he thought such a meeting would be useful. But Yugoslavia would be resolutely opposed to any settlement reached in private from which small nations were excluded.

Turning to the Trieste problem, Marshal Tito said that the 1947 Italian peace treaty proposals (which came to naught because the Security Council could not agree over a neutral Governor) would have been the 'most sober solution', and that his own condominium proposal, made in 1951 and rejected by Signor De Gasperi, would have been even better. He urged Italy to co-operate with Yugoslavia on other more important issues and to forget small differences. Referring to Signor De Gasperi's suggestion that Russia should adopt the 1948 declaration, he said Yugoslavia would never accept it even if Russia did. He sympathized with Signor De Gasperi's wish for an ethnical solution but said it must be a just ethnical solution and 'not as Signor De Gasperi conceives it'. And to the ethnical principle they must also add the economic principle because Yugoslavia and Austria both had greater economic interest in Trieste than Italy which had always neglected it. Marshal Tito acknowledged Signor De Gasperi's 'difficulties' in the forthcoming elections saying Italy always wanted something from Yugoslavia in her elections, but he declared 'we cannot yield a centimetre of our soil'.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

June 7 General Election in Italy.
" 12 Conference of European Foreign Ministers, Rome.
" 22 Joint meeting of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Coal and Steel Assembly.
" 23 Council of Europe, Consultative Assembly, Strasbourg.

July 10 Conference of European Foreign Ministers, The Hague.

Sept. (first week). Federal German General Election.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MEMORANDA

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